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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Czech-Greek Friendship League: Miltiades
Porphyrogenos, Greek Communist Leader

DIST. 18 August 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. Miltiades Porphyrogenos, Greek Communist leader has intentions of using Prague as his permanent headquarters, and will use the Czech-Greek Friendship League as the means of furthering his Communist activities, although he himself denies belonging to this body. Porphyrogenos was born in Volva, Greece, November 25, 1903. He is a lawyer by profession. During the war he was Secretary General of E.A.M. In March 1946 he was the delegate of the Greek Communist Party to the Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in Prague. During his stay in Prague he made speeches and wrote articles in the local press, both of a violently anti-British nature. He paid visits subsequently to Yugoslavia and to Paris, where his wife, Paula, resides. He returned to Prague in March 1947.
2. The Czech-Greek Friendship League has recently opened an office at Prague XII, Italska 36, and employs two Czech clerks. It also affords accommodation to J. Georgiades, another active Greek Communist, who has now settled in Prague and whose address is Prague XIX, Juaskova 34/I. Little is known about the membership of the Czech-Greek Friendship League except that its president is Dr. J. Lang, and that it enjoys the support of Kopecky, Communist Minister of Information. It now issues its own weekly Information Bulletin, a publication which consists of translated quotations from the Left-Wing Greek press, and this bulletin appears under the name of "Zpravodaj Ceskoslovensko-Recke Spolecnosti" (Czechoslovak-Greek League News Bulletin).
3. On March 28, 1947, a public meeting, sponsored by the Czech-Greek Friendship League, was held in Prague, at which Porphyrogenos was chief speaker. The holding of this meeting had been strongly opposed by the National Socialist and People's Parties and a resolution requesting that it should be forbidden was passed by the Central National Council. In spite of this, Nosek, the Communist Minister of Interior, gave permission for the Smetana Hall to be used for the meeting. The meeting was attended by about 3000 people, the majority of whom were Communists. Although Porphyrogenos spoke in Greek, his speech which contained the usual vilification of the "reactionary powers", was received with well-drilled enthusiasm. Other speakers were Dr. Lang, chairman of the League; Otakar Wunsch, Chief Editor to Czech Trade Unions; and J. Surokovsky, Vice-chairman of the Czech National Council who conveyed greetings from the Polish agricultural workers' delegation, then visiting Prague. The following bodies sent representatives to the meeting:

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Union of Czech Youth (represented by its chairman,
Zdenek Hejzlar)
Union of Czech Actors (representative: J. Muncimír)
Czech Syndicate of Authors (Jan Jirka, chairman, Marie
Hajzerova)
Council of Czech Women
Union of Partisans
Union of Liberated Political Prisoners
"Progressive" Students

The meeting finally decided to hand a note of protest to the Greek Charge d'Affaires in Prague, but a delegation was denied admittance to see him a day or two later. The protest was then sent by post, but as the signatures were type-written, the Charge d'Affaires chose to ignore it.

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